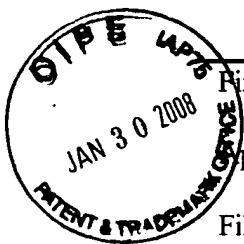


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



First named Applicant: Steven J. Zaharias

Application No.: 10/603,516 (CONF 3247)

Filed: 6/25/2003

Title: Merging scalable nodes into single-partition
merged system using service processors of
nodes

Attorney Docket No.: BEA920030014US1

Group Art Unit:
2141

Examiner:
Kenneth R. Coulter

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RULE 312 AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to issuance of this patent application, please amend this application as follows and consider the following remarks.